



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 8, 2002

H.R. 3858

New River Gorge Boundary Act of 2002

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on October 8, 2002*

H.R. 3858 would modify the boundary of the New River Gorge National River to include an additional 1,962 acres. The act also would allow the National Park Service (NPS) to exchange a small tract of land within this park unit's existing boundary for an adjacent tract of similar size.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3858 would cost the federal government between \$2 million and \$3 million over the next few years, mostly to purchase land within the expanded boundary. (CBO expects that most of the new acreage would remain in its natural condition and would not require any development.) Finally, we estimate that the cost of carrying out the proposed land exchange and the annual expense of administering the new acreage would not be significant. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS and local officials. H.R. 3858 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The act contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On June 13, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3858 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 22, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the CBO cost estimates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.